

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (MARCH 10 - 16, 1976)

SUMMARY: MAJOR STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES IN ARABIC-LANGUAGE
PRESS LAST WEEK (MARCH 10-16): SAUDI RECOGNITION OF
SOUTH YEMEN, PRES. FORD'S DECISION TO SELL MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT, SAG NEGOTIATIONS TO ASSUME FULL
OWNERSHIP ARAMCO, AND LEBANESE CRISIS. (PUBLICATION
OF ARABIC TEXT FEBRUARY 2) JOINT COMMUNIQUE SECOND
SESSION OF THE U.S.-SAUDI JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION
REPORTED IN JIDDA 1967). U.S.-RELATED EDITORIALS AND
COMMENTARIES WERE FEW COVERING U.S. ELECTIONS, AND
LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

1. LEBANON:
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UNDER TITLE "LEBANON AND AMERICA", HISHAM JAMJUM
IN 2/12 MADINA STATES THAT "AMERICA'S INTERVENTION"
IN LEBANON MEANS NEW U.S. POLITICAL "DESIGNS" FOR THE
MIDDLE EAST, "EXPECTED TO START IN LEBANON AND END
UP IN THE ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES". (NO DETAILS GIVEN.)

CHIEF EDITOR AL-RIYADH DAILY 3/14 WRITES THAT "ALTHOUGH
U.S DOES NOT HARBOR FRIENDLY FEELINGS TOWARDS SYRIA, THE
U.S. SEES THAT THE ARAB MODERATES, THE SYRIANS INCLUDED,
ARE THE BEST GUARANTEE TO KEEP LEBANON NEUTRAL RATHER
THAN FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF LEFTIST POWERS".

UKA'AZ DAILY EDITORIAL 3/14 CLAIMS "BOTH SUPERPOWERS
HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE LEBANESE EVENTS....SINCE THE
ARRIVAL FROM VIETNAM OF U.S. AMBASSADOR GODLEY - WHOSE
CIA RECORD IS REplete WITH INTRIGUES AND PLOTTING -
THE CONDITIONS IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN GOING FROM BAD TO
WORSE.... "THE SOVIET EMBASSY, "AND THEIR INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE....HAVE ARMED CERTAINFACTIONS OF THE MILITIA
AND FED THESE CONFLICTS WITH LIES AND DISTORTIONS."

2. U.S. ELECTIONS:

REFERRING TO THE CURRENT U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN,
3/15 UKAZ SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S "UNUSUAL STATEMENTS"
IN WHICH HE WARNED BOTH FRANCE AND ITALY AGAINST COMMUNIST
ACTIVITIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES, REFLECTED THAT
"AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS MOSCOW IS HARDENING" AND
THAT THIS "WILL LEAD THE TWO GIANTS TO GO FURTHER AHEAD
IN BUILDING UP THEIR MILITARY ARSENALS".
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